



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris
Council President

Stephen P. Corbett
Vice President

John A. Donohue
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis
District A Councilor

Cecilia Lenk
District B Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.
District C Councilor

John J. Lawn, Jr.
District D Councilor

Town Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 6:30 PM Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber Administration Building

1. **ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 6:30 pm, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors John A. Donohue, Susan G. Falkoff, Angeline B. Kounelis, Cecilia Lenk, Anthony Palomba, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Vice President Stephen P. Corbett and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present for the roll call were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Valerie Papas, Council Clerk. Councilor Lawn was absent. Vice President Corbett moved to go into executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to the taking, lease, sale or purchase of real property and to reconvene to open session following adjournment at 7:15 pm, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 PM**

3. **RECONVENE OPEN MEETING – 7:15 PM – All Councilors are present.**

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** [January 6th](#) and [January 12th](#).: Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the minutes of January 6th, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote. Councilor Kounelis Tabled the minutes for January 12th.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM:** None noted.

7. **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM TOWN OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES:**

a) [Informational Presentation](#) on Calendar Year 2009 accomplishments and future goals of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee – Mari Ryan, Committee member. Following the presentation, current members, retiring or former members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee were recognized including current members Fred Hewitt and Deb Peterson and retiring members Peter Brooks and Mari Ryan. Councilors thanked past and present committee members for their dedication and hard work.

8. **MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

a) First reading and referral to the Planning Board of a Zoning Ordinance [amendment](#) regarding parking lots for gain. The Chair recognized Mr. Steven Magoon, Planning Director who provided a brief overview of the first reading. He

noted that the proposed ordinance will be referred to the Planning Board for a public hearing and then brought back to the Town Council.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a) Update: Watertown/Harvard/O'Neil Charitable Committee. Council President Sideris and Councilor Lawn provided a brief overview of the Charitable Committee's past disbursements and concerns. The Chair opened up an initial discussion as to how the Council would like to proceed in the future. It was requested that an overview/history of the Charitable Ad Hoc Committee be forwarded to new councilors. Councilor Falkoff spoke in support of referring the matter to the Human Services subcommittee for study and recommendation with discussion focusing on a mission statement, clear guidelines and future direction. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the matter to the Whole and Finance Committee as it is a policy decision matter, seconded by Councilor Donohue. Councilors Palomba, Corbett and Lenk spoke in support of having a general and initial discussion in subcommittee followed by a referral to the Whole and Finance Committee. Councilor Falkoff offered a friendly amendment to refer the matter first to subcommittee and then to Whole and Finance. The friendly amendment was accepted by Councilor Piccirilli and seconded by Councilor Lenk and adopted by voice vote. It was further noted by the Council President that the Council will not be soliciting applications for funds at this point in time.

b) The Council President announced that he will be forming a Technology Ad Hoc group consisting of three members of the Council; joined by the town's IT department head, Joseph Mahoney and webmaster Bob Erickson. The President asked that councilors interested in serving on the committee forward their names to the council clerk and to be brought back to the Council at the next meeting.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER:

a) Request for confirmation of reappointment and appointments to the Historic District Commission. The Chair indicated that the reappointments and appointments will be referred to the subcommittee on Economic Development and Planning.

b) Request for confirmation of appointments to the Former Branch Libraries Reuse Advisory Committee. The Chair indicated that the appointments will be referred to the subcommittee on Economic Development and Planning.

Councilor Kounelis noted her disappointment that no candidate from the East End had been nominated to serve on the Former Branch Libraries Reuse Advisory Committee. Two East Enders who had previously served on the Ad Hoc Committee applied for consideration. Rejected letters were mailed to candidates not selected on January 25th. Town Councilors were given the short list of nominees on January 26th. It is premature to forward rejection letters prior to action being taken by the Town Council.

The Manager noted that he interviewed ten candidates and five were selected. He also noted that In the past it was suggested that letters be sent out to applicants who were not chosen as a courtesy. The Manager read the letter thanking those candidates who applied but were not chosen. He noted that the

response was appropriate and professional and should not be characterized as a rejection letter.

The Manager indicated that Peter Centola, Recreation Director, will be hosting monthly meetings to get feed back on recreation programs both current and planned for the future.

c) The Manager provided an overview of an email from Fire Chief Orangio regarding a three alarm fire at Washburn Street. He noted the fine efforts and tremendous teamwork of the fire, police and public works departments. No deaths or injuries were reported.

The Council President thanked all those involved in a job well done in assisting with control of the massive fire noting the officials' initial concern with the close proximity of other homes to the fire. Councilor Lenk indicated the expressed appreciation from residents in the immediate area on the fine work of the fire department in controlling the fire and the assistance of the police and public works departments.

11. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis also echoed previous comments regarding the fire at Washburn Street and requested an update by the Manager regarding recent staffing levels of the fire department; she also requested a list of names of applicants for the library reuse committee and reiterated her previous requests: Wells Avenue parking lot update and plaques at Fillipello Park.

Councilor Falkoff thanked the Manager for his responses regarding snow removal costs and related matters. Councilor Falkoff requested an update on the following: Whitney Hill; No smoking signs for tot lots; website tracking system; moving the Watertown Square bus stop; the Delta square sidewalks as it relates to snow removal.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Falkoff announced a job fair for US census workers at Medford City Hall tomorrow; employment testing for the Census department at St. James Armenian Church February 4th, 11th and 25th at 10am and the Armenian Cultural Center February 2nd and 9th at 5pm.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The Council President requested a Moment of Silence for the passing of Albert Gayzagian, long time resident and community activist.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Falkoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by Councilor Donohue and adopted by unanimous vote.

The minutes of January 26th were adopted as amended on February 23, 2010 by voice vote.